

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 NSC-05

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PRS-01 SY-05 ACDA-05 SSO-00 /048 W

----- 121743

P R 111152Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9712

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4437

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MORG, EAID, MASS, CB, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH MARSHAL LON NOL REGARDING SECURITY
SITUATION FOR U.S. AIRLIFT AT POCHENTONG

REF: PHNOM PENH 4379

1. I CALLED ON THE MARSHAL AT 1700 HOURS MARCH 11 AND SPENT ONLY ABOUT 10 MINUTES WITH HIM. I SAID MY VISIT HAD ONLY ONE PURPOSE, WHICH WAS TO STRESS THE ABSOLUTE NECESITY OF SOMETHING BEING DONE IMMEDIATELY TO REDUCE AND IF POSSIBLE ELIMINATE THE THREAT TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE U.S. AIRLIFT INTO POCHENTOMG POSED BY THE KC ROCKETING AND SHELLING. I STATED THAT THE AIR CREWS ARE REFUSING TO FLY INTO POCHENTONG, AND WHILE WE COULD STAND THIS FOR PERHAPS ONE DAY, CONDITIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE CREATED PERMITTING RESUMPTION OF THE AIRLIFT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I NOTED THAT THUS FAR TODAY 61 ROCKETS AND 105MM ROUNDS HAVE STRUCK THE POCHENTONG AREA. I LEFT WITH THE MARSHAL, AT HIS REQUEST, A PHOTO MAP OF THE AREA WITH THE 105MM AND 107MM IMPACT POINTS MARKED ON IT WHICH I HAD BROUGHT WITH ME.

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2. THE MARSHAL REPLIED THAT THE NECESSARY ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY. HE SAID HE HAD CONVOKED ALL THOSE REQUIRED TO PLAN AND MOUNT THE NECESSARY COUNTERATTACK AND THAT THEY WOULD BE MEETING WITH HIM SOON AFTER MY CALL. I ASKED IF THE REPLACEMENT OF LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ BY LTG SAK SUTSAKHAN HAD YET BEEN ANNOUNCED. I SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT SAK SUTSAKHAN TAKE CHARGE AT EMG JUST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE MARSHAL SAID THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE CHANGE OF COMMAND WOULD TAKE PLACE TONIGHT. LTG SAK SUTSAKHAN WOULD BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING HE HAD JUST CONVOKED, THE MARSHAL SAID.
DEAN

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